

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02285 132328Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 IO-11 EUR-12 SCCT-01 DHA-02

AID-05 CCO-00 OC-05 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SY-05 SCS-03 FBO-02 /107 W

----- 003982

O R 132305Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9007

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS,PINT,MILI, LE

SUBJ: FRANGIE REJECTS PARLIAMENTARY CALL TO RESIGN

1. ACCORDING TO GOOD PRESS SOURCE, PRESIDENT FRANGIE REFUSED TO RESIGN WHEN ASKED TO DO SO BY DELEGATION OF DEPUTIES CALLING ON HIM LATE MARCH 13. HIS REFUSAL DEFIED PETITION CALLING FOR RESIGNATION THAT HAS NOW GATHERED 66 SIGNATURES OF DEPUTIES, I.E., TWO-THIRDS OF TOTAL PARLIAMENT MEMBERSHIP.

2. POLITICAL PRESSURE ON FRANGIE CONTINUES TO MOUNT DESPITE HIS HARD STAND. WE UNDERSTAND DANNY CHAMOUN, CAMILLE'S SON, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY BACKS AL-AHDAB. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE KATAEB

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POLITBURO MARCH 13 VOTED 10 TO 4 TO SUPPORT AL-AHDAB

BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. EARLIER INFORMATION THAT FRANGIE LOYALIST, COL. ANTOINE BARAKAT, HAD TAKEN OVER A BARRACKS NEAR PALACE IS STILL NOT CONFIRMED. NEWS THAT SARBA CASERNE IN JOUNIEH HAD JOINED BARAKAT ALSO UNCERTAIN. SITUATION CONFUSED ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF COMPETING CLAIMS MADE BY RIVAL RADIO AND TV STATIONS.

4. AS WE REPORTED EARLIER, SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THAT AIR FORCE PLANES PLANNED TO ATTACK PRO-FRANGIE RADIO TRANSMITTER AND POSSIBLY PALACE ITSELF MARCH 13 BUT WERE DETERRED BY BAD WEATHER. POLICY DECISION TO GIVE PRESIDENT MORE TIME MAY ALSO HAVE PROMPTED DELAY. NOW THAT FRANGIE REFUSED TO STEP DOWN MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THIS SORT MAY WELL BE CARRIED OUT MARCH 14.
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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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